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Oswald Offered Info to Russia, Ex-CIA Agent Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — A retired CIA agent says he recalls that several weeks before President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald offered to give the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City information in exchange for a trip to Russia.

David A. Phillips, a former CIA officer in Mexico who now heads the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers, said:

"My general recollection is that he (Oswald) wanted to go to the Soviet Union via Cuba, and as part of that he said he might have some information useful to them."

Phillips declined to say where he had obtained that information, other than to say "I was aware what was going on."

However, it was first reported more than a year ago, and later confirmed by Senate intelligence committee chairman Frank Church, that the CIA wiretapped and recorded a Sept. 28, 1963, conversation that Oswald had with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City from a telephone in the Cuban Embassy there.

Kennedy was shot to death during a motorcade in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and the Warren Commission determined that Oswald was the sole assassin.

It has been known that Oswald went to the Mexico City embassies in an attempt to obtain a travel visa that would permit him to enter the Soviet Union by way of Cuba.

The Washington Post reported in today's editions that a CIA interpreter and a stenographer who worked on the transcript of Oswald's telephone conversation also recalled that Oswald had offered unspecified information in exchange for a paid trip to the Soviet Union.

But the Post said the Warren Commission, for undetermined reasons, was not given that segment of the transcript. And it said the FBI, which is responsible for espionage investigations, also was told only in a general way that Oswald had made contact with the Soviet Embassy.